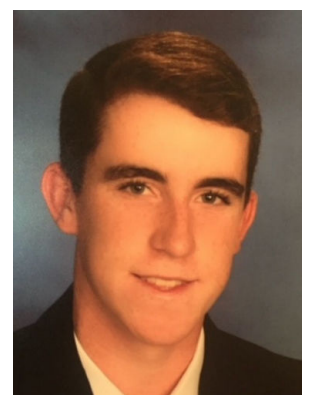
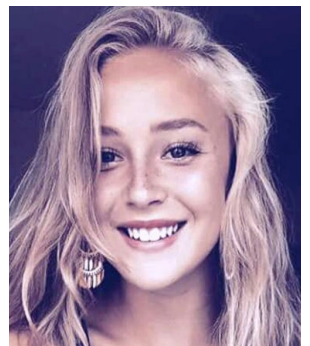
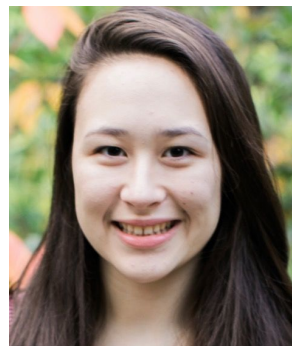
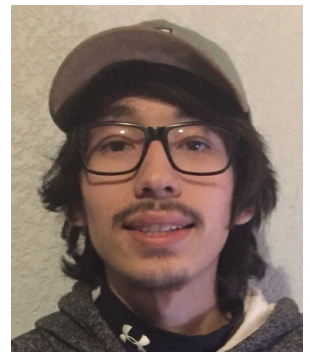


Dyslexic Advantage

CONGRATULATIONS Karina Eide Memorial Scholars 2019



*Karina Eide Memorial
College Scholarship*



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the amazing Karina Eide Memorial College Scholarship Winners of 2019! This was a record-breaking year for applications, and we wished we could give awards to all of these students. Take time and read through these inspiring lives.

Read through their stories and be inspired!

We would also like to thank our donor of the Karina Eide Memorial Scholarships these past four years. He and his wife have been heroes to our community and helped award 64 dyslexic students with financial need across the country, making this the largest college scholarship program for dyslexic students in the US. Although we don't know yet whether we'll have the funds to continue this program next year, we have been enriched just being able to be part of this program and grateful for the opportunity to honor the memory of our daughter [Karina](#).

If you have a chance please TAKE our 4-minute: [Delay in Dyslexia Identification Survey](#). Your answers are important!





BENITA
Cal State Univ
Dominguez Hills

Major: Communications

Intern, Robert Herzberg for Senate - Policy Research
Homelessness and Affordable Housing
Children's Assistant Daycare
Study Abroad, Cape Town South Africa
Public Relations Student Society of America

From Benita's recommendation (with the writer's permission):

"In Belinda's own words, she considers dyslexia a strength and a powerful teaching tool. She does this humbly and without any expectation of recognition or reward..."

I have learned throughout my college experience that having an open mindset in wanting change for the good comes from one's heart, and from having and seeing someone else's perspective. I have a brother who is autistic, and I have learned with him to be compassionate. One of the personal qualities I can honestly say that I have is patience. The reason I have so much patience is because I have a 30 year old autistic brother.

I've been taking care of my brother since I was 15 and sometimes it's very hard. Andy has taught me to become more sensitive towards people with learning disabilities and I thank him for that every day. I took a Child Development class to understand about other children's needs and wants. In this course, I learned how people interpret themselves. Society needs to learn how to be involved and better understand others' needs at a personal and professional level. We as society are ignorant about the needs of people who have a disability, and it's very important to build a culture in which the involvement of the community can help those who need it.

Throughout my education in urban schools, I have seen counselors place special education students in remedial courses due to low expectations. When conducting research on the issue, I learned that special education students are less successful in urban schools due to the lack of resources and trained staff. With this in mind, I am determined to attain a profession that will enable me to motivate those young individuals who tackle the barriers established by poverty and disabilities...

I have never wanted to give up in the face of adversity. I have battled with work, school, and home and that made me into a great problem solver. I have been told by many of my professors that I am smart with managing my time. Advice that I would give my younger self would be-- We carry a lot on our shoulders and even complain about what life throws



CHARLES
University of
Colorado Boulder

Major: Pre-Engineering

Mountain Adventures Guide Utah Olympic Park
Young Riders Coach
National Ability Center - Peer swimming with kids with special needs, mentor to a teen with autism spectrum disorder, coach for veterans with PTSD

I possess mad M strengths! In the book *The Dyslexic Advantage*, M strengths are described as "short for Material Reasoning, and it's one of the four MIND-Strengths, or strengths associated with dyslexic processing. M-Strengths are the abilities to reason about the position, form, and movement of objects 3D space." Basically, I have really good 3D spatial reasoning skills. These help me excel in architecture and building cool stuff out of Legos.

I excel in math. I was invited in 8th grade to take both honors 8th grade math and honors 9th grade math at the same time to get ahead. In 11th and 12th grade, I took my math online through Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. I also won the Overall Outstanding Student in Mathematics at my high school graduation. Last, I have some talent in drawing and in music. I play guitar, bass guitar, and ukulele and really like music theory. I like to create my own songs on Logic Pro...

I want to earn my engineering degree and work in the ski industry. I'd like to work for Doppelmayr and design chairlifts and trams.

Try to find and recognize your strengths. My strengths in 3D spatial reasoning and in math are what helped me survive the struggle with school and with teachers. Also, find an outlet. For me, playing guitar and producing songs on Logic Pro have been creative outlets. Ski racing has been another outlet for me. It's important to find things you enjoy outside of school.



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CHRISTIAN
South Dakota
School of Mines
and Technology

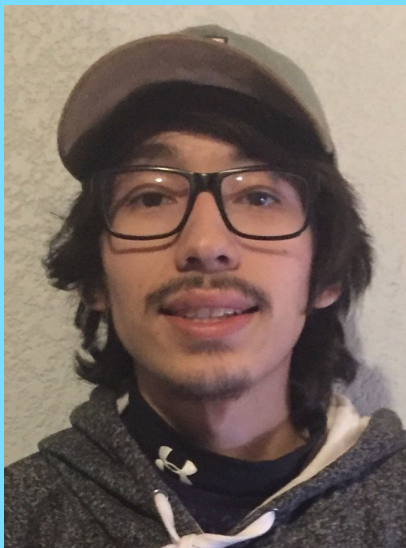
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Internship in Manufacturing Engineering
Youth Camp Counselor Good Earth Village
Bobcat Manufacturing
SAE MIni-Bobcat Team - maintenance of all baja cars
Eagle Scout
Cross Country

...my tenacity is probably my strongest trait. As example, last semester before I was diagnosed, I almost failed my solid mechanics II class... a lot of my friends and advisors told me to give up and retake the class again in the future. Instead of giving up I went and talked to the professor for the class, which lead to me finally getting diagnosed and getting a plan together for me to pass the class. I didn't give up. I kept pushing to the end because of my nature to keep pushing until I achieve my goals

...my greatest interpersonal strength, empathy. Empathy allows me to connect and understand people. For instance, I have a friend who is struggling with academics, and I work with him. I don't just help him with his homework, but I let him express how difficult school is, his frustrations about college life, and what the next moves are for success.

I am not a particularly wise man, but the advice I must give to young people suffering with dyslexia is improvise, overcome, and adventure. If you don't have the tools to succeed change the rules. If you learn best with pictures and not by writing, draw pictures. if you're a kinetic learner, learn with the movement of your body, work smarter, and not harder for your success . However, don't forget to have an adventure, enjoy yourself and see what the world can give you. Finally, as I look to my own future, I really don't know what my long term steps are. I do know that I want to get my master's degree in mechanical engineering, start my undergraduate research, and see where life takes me after that.



CURTIS
Lake Area
Technical Institute

Major: Welding Tech

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate's Tribal Youth Council
Archery, made Dakota Bow
Work experience with Dakota Crossing and Fuel, Inc.

I grew up in Sisseton, SD, where I lived with my parents and 6 other siblings. I like to hunt, enjoy archery and had even made a traditional Dakota bow. I now live in Watertown, SD....

In high school there were many IEP meetings, because the school struggled to know what I needed. I had to stay calm to get through all the meetings and learn to advocate for myself; we would tell them modifications we learned from our research and they would minimize our suggestions, time and time again. Towards the end of spring semester I was able to get through to the IEP team and get modifications to my work that helped me to graduate.

In Seventh Generation Oyate Voices, I had the opportunity to work with other tribes, programs and youth in the community. It was important to get along with people of many different nationalities and backgrounds...In the future, I would like to open a shop for young tribal members in my Dakota Community, where all youth that want to work can learn, gain hands on experience, and eventually finding themselves a good job. The goal would be to gain certification, experience, and knowledge in an employable trade.

It would be hard to give one advice for all kids, as each kid is different and has their own experience with dyslexia. For me, I would want to be in the moment to really see how I could help them. Each person is unique and their experience is their own. My approach would be that I would be their friend and let them know that they aren't alone.



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with
dyslexia**



DEREK

Western Oregon
University

Major: American Sign Language Interpretation

Saints' Pantry Food Bank
Community Deaf Events

...By fourth grade it was pretty clear that something was really different with me as a student. I couldn't decode even basic words to read, even though I had strengths in many other areas. I was evaluated at the University of Washington, and received a report detailing their testing and listing accommodations I would need to succeed as a student. But I came from a very small poor town, and just kept slipping farther and farther down as a student...I couldn't take notes fast enough, couldn't write things in an order that made sense, and couldn't keep things organized like other students. I knew I was smart enough....

I learned that my dyslexia is very extreme. The more I learned about it, the more I understood why things had been so challenging for me as a student. My family searched for a high school for dyslexic students. The closest program we could find was in Portland, 2.5 hours away from our home. I interviewed, and I got admitted to Edison High School. It is a school designed to teach students with learning differences like dyslexia. It was an amazing school, and gave me the opportunities I needed. But the transfer separated my family...

I had to adjust to a new school, and had to stay alone at the apartment a lot while my mom went back and forth and worked her new job. I used my kindness and compassion to make friends with other students with learning differences. I used my willingness to keep fighting and not give up even when I felt lonely and in over my head. I excelled in ASL at Edison, and I want to become an ASL interpreter and help others with learning differences. My advice to younger people with dyslexia is

KARINA EIDE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2019



EMILY
Tulane University

Major: Psychology

Deans List

Tulane University Leadership Award

Research Assistant Perceptual and Motor Development

Peer Mentor

Newcomb Big Sister

Hillel Tulane Jewish Leader

Intramural Soccer

My greatest personal strength is my capacity for empathy, which helps me to connect to others with compassion and to create community. I use my empathetic skills in my everyday life in helping friends and strangers. For example, I am the empathic listener my friends go to for emotional support and advice...I serve as a Peer Mentor to the incoming freshmen class, and have a strong desire to become an RA. After graduating from Tulane, I plan to attend graduate school for occupational therapy. My dream is to obtain my doctorate degree, and to open my own private practice for pediatric occupational therapy.

My advice for younger people with dyslexia is to continue to work extra hard. When you have dyslexia, you may have to work harder, but that work ethic not only helps you in school but is a great life skill. Growing up, I remember grabbing my lunch from the cafeteria and bringing it back up to a classroom where I met with my tutor during lunch. I remember feeling different from so many of my peers and often feeling frustrated by the academic concepts with which I struggled. It seemed like I was alone in that struggle, but now that I am older, I realize everyone has a struggle at one time or another. The important thing is to persevere and not to compare yourself to others. Being your own advocate is also very important. Again, this is a great life skill, because it is so important to know what one needs in class to be successful. As a student with dyslexia, you are smart and have creative and unique ways of problem-solving. Over the years, I have found strategies and tools to help me succeed in and out of the classroom, and I have learned that great minds think differently!!



ERIN
California College
of the Arts

Major: Industrial Design

Cake Decorator, Bakery Intern

Graphic Artist Intern

Family, Career, and Community Leaders

Perseverance, honesty, and creativity are some of the strengths I see in myself. Perseverance is one of my traits that got me through high school. I hated school and never wanted to go, but I saw where I could go past high school so I persevered through all the work and classes. Honesty is so important. As I am honest, people have been able to trust me with important responsibilities. In my job, I represented a bakery business to potential clients at wedding shows and delivered wedding cakes to high-end venues by myself. These were interesting and great experiences. Creativity is a strength that I use every day to think about situations differently. One example of this was in freshman year of high school, when we had to perform Shakespeare in front of the class, which at the time was so outside my comfort zone that it made me almost have panic attacks. Instead, I asked the teacher if I could do a Shakespeare puppet show that I would prerecord and share with the class. My teacher agreed and I was able to complete my assignment and flipped it into something that I actually enjoyed. I got to focus on my strengths, be creative, and make puppets instead of focusing on my weakness at the time.

The advice I would give to younger people with dyslexia is to find what you are passionate about. That is what helped me get through school. Having something that you are excited about and want to learn makes the experience of going through school so much better. It can be something outside of school that you enjoy, or even a class at school that you enjoy. For me it was art, being able to take art classes at school as well as outside of school to foster my creativity has led me to art school for college. The other passion I had was baking. This inspired me to take a culinary class at school, and through that I met my advisor who changed the rest of my time at high school...Knowing myself as well as my strengths and finding my passions has helped me be able to get past the many challenges I face due to having dyslexia.



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DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES / 504 COORDINATOR

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Visual images and building understanding

Linking images to symbols/numbers



$$5 + 5 = 10$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$10 \div 2 = 5$$

Inter-relating numbers and operations + - x ÷

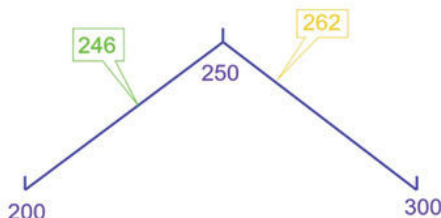
Reversing



$$10 - 1 = 9$$

$$9 + 1 = 10$$

Estimating: to the nearest hundred



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LANE
East Tennessee
State University

Major: Nutrition

Women's NCAA Athlete of the Year - Women's Triathlon
2018

Varsity Girls Cross Country, Individual & Team Girls City
Champion, Multiple Track Awards

Science Barn Grounds Volunteer

Student Athlete Volunteer

Mentor to younger athletes

Church volunteer

...The biggest hurdle in addressing my Dyslexia has been finding which learning methods work best for me. Through hours of after school Dyslexia remediation, I have found ways to compensate; devising note taking strategies and adopting other study habits to help me keep up with – and excel in – my classes. I have also had to overcome the stigma of feeling like the “below average student,” asking numerous clarifying questions on assignments (a truly humbling experience) and having to, many times, work harder and longer than my peers.

These trials, however, have shaped me into a more emotionally intelligent and empathetic person, an active communicator who can connect easily with many diverse groups of people and a looked to leader among my peers. I have never given up and never wavered in my commitment for academic excellence, and my struggles with Dyslexia have taught me the correlation between hard work and positive results and that only I can define what success is for me. I don't measure my success, therefore, by standardized test scores, academic awards and class rank; but rather I measure success through the journey...the knowledge I have gained, my level of commitment and my follow through. These experiences have all contributed to the person and athlete I am today, showing me what I am capable of and making me mentally strong in racing, training, and in the classroom.

My advice for young people with Dyslexia is to never give up and never stop asking for assistance when you need it. These two things will always lead to you to success and help you develop a network of people who can help you along in your own personal journey.

[ON-DEMAND WEBINAR]

How to Build a Framework for the Early Identification and Intervention of Dyslexia

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- Other factors critical to supporting students with dyslexia, including infrastructure, professional development, curricula, screening tools, and parental involvement

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LIAM
Northwestern
Michigan College

Major: Digital Cinema

Video intern
Photographer Peninsula Living Magazine, Clothing Company
Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter
Certificate Unmanned Aerial Systems,
Lifeguard
Landscape Intern
Snowboard Instructor
Grand Prize Congressional Arts

A lot of my personal strengths come from experiences I had during high school, which transferred into my current success in college. I was an active athlete in school, participating in Football, Basketball, and Lacrosse. This includes a position as captain on the club varsity lacrosse team, where I was a driving force for petitioning that my school's lacrosse team transfer from a club sport to an official Varsity sport....

Another personal strength is my love of the arts. I'm one of those individuals who found their calling relatively early in life. I've been practicing photography for up to eight years now and have accumulated a handful of accredited awards for my work in the visual arts. The largest award to date is from my image "A False Face", which won the Congressional 1st District Grand Prize...I was flown to Washington D.C that June to receive the award from my area representative...

I feel that my Dyslexia is one of my strongest personal strengths. Dyslexia gives me a strong visual basis which helps me frame a

photograph and scene for video. It gives me a different view of the world. Granted, I do struggle in some subjects because of it; but I choose to focus on the positive aspects dyslexia gives me instead of the negatives.

I would like to pursue a future in documenting outdoor adventure sports, more recently I have focused on capturing activities like cold water surfing, mountain biking, and generally people's connection to the outdoors. My current goal is to transfer to Northern Michigan University to obtain a Bachelor's degree in digital cinema, then travel the world documenting human interactions with nature. I'm very excited for what the future holds.

My advice to younger people with dyslexia? Don't look at dyslexia as a disadvantage, view it as an advantage. Follow your strengths and don't let this learning difference affect your goals in life. It's a way to view the world through a different perspective that most people may not see. Some of the world's greatest inventors, artists, and musicians have been said to have dyslexia. We've got something



LIBERTY
Texas Tech
University

Major: Architecture

Heart of Lubbock Community Garden
Community Services
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Student Ministry
President, Robotics Team

I am strong in spatial awareness and relationships as well as leadership skills, strong work ethic, and determination. By using these skills despite my disability I have excelled at school. I am currently working on my undergraduate degree in architecture at Texas Tech University. I use my spatial awareness to understand our architectural assignments and succeed in them. My leadership skills come in handy during group projects where I often lead and delegate tasks to the group. I also use my strong work ethic skills and determination to continue working on the assignments and turn them in on time even when they frustrate me and I take a long time to complete them.

After I graduate I would like to attend University of Oregon for my graduate school because they focus in sustainability. ...Architecture is the built environment, but this doesn't mean that it must be completely removed from nature. We can create places that are a natural part of our planet that meld into it and don't completely set us apart from the rest of earth. This is what I love about architecture because it can, and is, becoming the intersection between the rest of the living on our planet and humanity. Architecture can pave the way for a sustainable future while still being beautiful and meeting our needs for a growing population and a technologically advancing society. I want to use my love of architecture and biology and my passion for the environment to create sustainable homes and work places. I want to be an architect so that I can show people that sustainability can be both beautiful, cost effective, and beneficial to our environment.

The advice I have for young children with dyslexia is to step back and breath when something gets too hard and you feel like quitting. I know you're smart, you know you're smart so take a step back from whatever you're doing and remind yourself of that.



MAGDALEN
University of
Oregon

Major: Psychology; Minor, Arabic

Sign Language
Gymnastics Coach
Research Assistant

When I was younger, before I was diagnosed with dyslexia, I thought I was very disorganized because I struggled with reading and had trouble finishing tests on time. As I get older I am starting to truly recognize how organized I am and how much that has helped me through the years.

I currently have a major in psychology and a minor in Arabic because I feel that these will help me succeed in my dream job. In the future I have one major goal of working for the FBI as a special agent. I want to do this because I want to help people; whether that means protecting them from danger or leading people making poor choices in the right direction to a better life. However, I do know this is a very competitive job to apply for so I have back up ideas as well. My first back up idea is to become a psychologist for those that have been abused in some way. With this job, I could assist people that have been hurt or harmed and help them cope with what has happened, learn specific red flags, and rebuild their self confidence. My second back up idea is to be a psychologist that diagnoses children, teens, and adults with dyslexia and other learning disabilities...

My advice to those with dyslexia and other learning disabilities is to never let you or anyone else convince you that you are stupid or not worthy of something. I struggle a lot with thinking that I am stupid because I take so long to take tests or worksheets, have difficulties reading and understanding articles or textbooks, and do not always do as well on a test as I think I should have with the amount of studying I did. Those of us with dyslexia are not stupid though, we just have a disability that makes us unique individuals. It takes an amazingly smart individual to work through these complications to be successful and reach their goals.



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MAGGIE
Univeristy of
Notre Dame

Major: Architecture

Artist at Brush and Barrel

At fourteen years old, I was a frustrated substandard student who had just been diagnosed with dyslexia. Over the next three years, I endured Barton, an intensive dyslexia remediation program, as well as vision therapy, occupational therapy, and executive function coaching. By age seventeen I earned a thirty-four on the ACT, and by age eighteen my research essay earned a spot in the journal Fresh Writing published at the University of Notre Dame. Success was not pre-ordained, but rather, obtained. The energy that I once spent pushing through my disabilities is now solely devoted to learning. This allows me to be the truth version of myself: to thrive at Notre Dame both academically and personally. My dyslexic journey is teaching me what hard work can accomplish; my greatest strength is my work ethic.

Three-dimensional tasks like art and design come naturally to me. Dyslexia inspired me to draw, and my success with drawing inspired me to choose Architecture as my college major. While design is one of my strengths, the time-intensive studio classes and projects

require working through long nights and creative blocks. My struggles with dyslexia have taught me how to work hard, and I will always consider this my greatest strength.

My long-term plans include becoming a successful architect, as well as becoming a voice for dyslexics...

I have seven younger siblings with dyslexia. My advice for them is the same as for every dyslexic: all you can do is try. Failure is not defeat. I have failed many times, and I will fail again. I have learned to see failure as a springboard for growth. Embrace your dyslexia but do not let it be the determinant of every choice you make. Do not let a label or fear of judgment define you, rather, let your interests and personality define you. Try a creative writing class. Try an art class. Try theater. Try sports. The Architecture major requires a semester of physics, and I dreaded it freshman year because I knew I struggled with number reversals. I could have switched majors to avoid physics, but I chose to try the class. I quickly discovered that physics' conceptual analysis of moving and rotating objects in space was not only incredibly interesting to me but complimented my dyslexic brain. I would never have discovered this skill-set if I let fear and dyslexic stereotypes determine my choices. Dyslexia is a significant part of who we are, but it is not all of who we are.

Dyslexia is an integral part of my life. I hope to eradicate the shame and fear that are so commonly associated with dyslexia. I want to show my fellow dyslexics what a beautiful gift our unique brains are. - Maggie McDonald

KARINA EIDE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2019



MAXWELL
Appalachian State
University

Major: Quantitative Geoscience

Rafting Guide
Music Teacher
Archery Teacher
Archery Nationally-Ranked
Clerical Assistant

One personal strength that I have that is clear to all who know me is my good work ethic. The road for me to learn this skill was long: it took all 12 years of school for me to get to where I am now. It is a skill that is more necessary because of my struggles with dyslexia. I'm constantly adapting my work ethic to fit my crazy class load and extracurriculars.

The Dyslexic Advantage was a book that had a huge influence on me academically. I first listened to this book via audiobook in middle school. It changed my thoughts about dyslexics in academics. I decided that I could get A's if I had a good enough work ethic and learned how I process information. After three hard years of learning how to be a dyslexic student in middle school, I made it into high school. At this point, my work ethic and learning habits were well on the way to helping me earn a GPA that was competitive with the top 10% of my high school.

Currently I am a student at Appalachian State University and my major is in the field of Geology. I want to use my skills for resource identification and preservation.

My advice to younger people with dyslexia is that dyslexia is not a disability no matter what other people say. It is simply a different way of thinking. Unfortunately that makes some things harder for dyslexics than non-dyslexics. On the flip side, dyslexics have many strengths in uncommon subjects that are highly valued in society. So find your strengths and develop them and use all the help you can get for your weaknesses. You will be okay.

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NATASHA
University of
South Florida

Major: Speech Language Pathology

Hospital volunteer
Swim instructor and lifeguard
President of orchestra

Finding out I had a learning disorder changed my life in so many ways. It explained why I always struggled in areas that my peers would succeed in, no matter how hard I worked. The diagnosis didn't prepare me for just how hard the future was going to be, but music was one of the things that helped me. In elementary school, I had such a hard time keeping up with other students, but one of the things that I could excel in was learning different instruments. I attended a performing arts elementary school, where I learned to play the violin, harp, the handbells, and the cello. Here, I attended my first All-County Orchestra and it made me so proud that I was able to achieve this after only playing the cello for a few short months....

After being diagnosed with dyslexia, I was also diagnosed with severe hearing loss and an auditory processing disorder. This led to years of doctors' appointments, speech therapy, and countless other appointments. This truly shaped what I wanted to do with my future: becoming a speech pathologist. I want to help other people realize that a diagnosis doesn't hold you back. I never gave up. I cried over essays, I struggled with SAT's, I did everything I could to put myself above the crowd. I took college classes in high school just to help prepare myself for the future. I intend to go all the way to grad school and fully make the most of this career path. I think patients would truly benefit from interacting and working with someone who has experienced the same struggles as them, and I could really see myself going far with this. I will never forget the struggles I experienced.

One of the biggest pieces of advice that I have would be to find a passion and try to pursue it as much as possible. Having a passion often helped to distract myself when I was discouraged in school. I often would lose confidence in myself when teachers would tell me that I wouldn't amount to anything, but having music helped me push through the hard times so that I could succeed.

DISCOVER YOUR LEARNING DISABILITY



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SYEDA
Arizona State
University

Major: Global Health

Director of Digital Outreach ASU GlobeMed

ASU GlobeMed Intern in Nicaragua

America Reads Tutor

Community Service - families in need, elderly, food, park sustainability

Since I was a young girl, art has been a facet in my life. I would create mosaics using shea butter and beads on the walls of my home as a child. Instead of chastising me, my mother was impressed by my masterpieces. She enrolled me in courses at the Scottsdale Artist School once I got a older. There I was introduced to a myriad of art mediums.

As a student in Barrett, the Honors College, I have to complete an honors thesis/creative project. I will complete a community health outreach project, research reemerging infectious diseases, and write a paper on how populations across the United States may be affected by potential outbreaks. Each infectious disease discussed will have a watercolor painting depicting the physical effects of the disease and how the surrounding areas are affected as well...

While I love art, I am interested in having a career in Public Health. I want to help create policy focused around vulnerable populations within the U.S. and abroad. I aspire to work at a multi-level international intergovernmental organization and then eventually become a United States diplomat. I would like for all dyslexic people, but especially younger ones, to know that anything is possible. I have been studying Mandarin Chinese for several years. Mandarin is one of the most difficult languages to learn, but I do not let that stop me. I want young kids with dyslexia to know that there are resources available to help them and that is okay to seek out help. Our dyslexia does not mean we are not as smart as those without a learning disability. It just means we naturally work harder.

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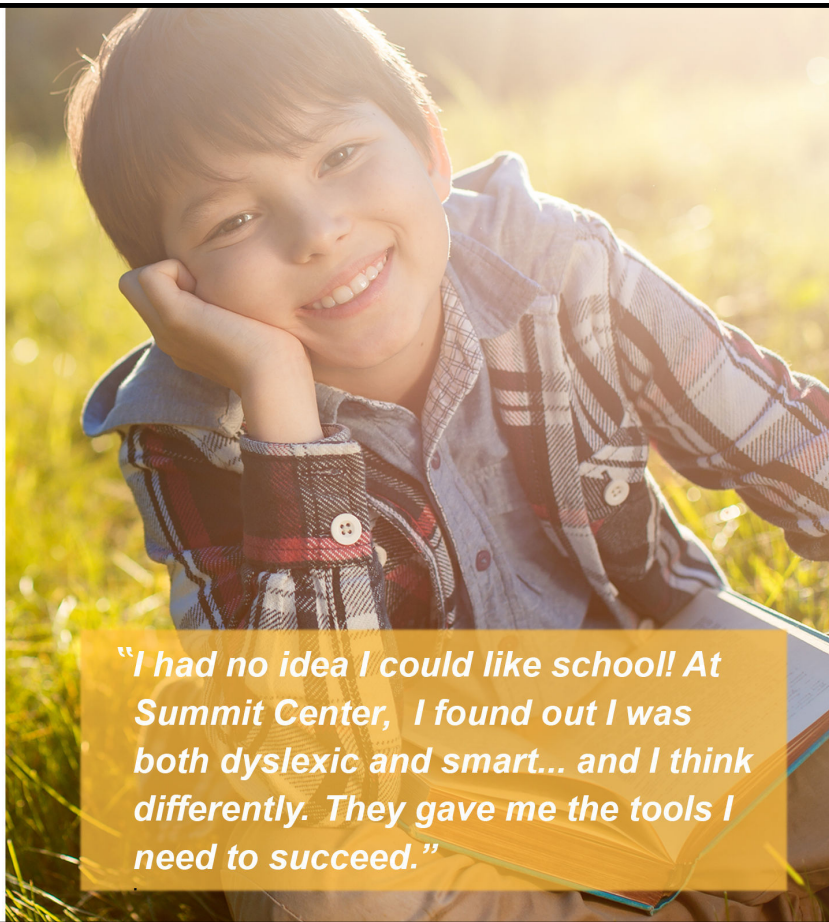
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"I had no idea I could like school! At Summit Center, I found out I was both dyslexic and smart... and I think differently. They gave me the tools I need to succeed."

DISCOVER YOUR LEARNING DISABILITY

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National Leader in Learning Disabilities

Four decades ago, Churchill was founded as a place of hope for students and families, a source of knowledge for professionals and a point of pride for the community. Churchill's mission is to empower students with learning disabilities gain the *strategies and confidence they need to succeed, becoming advocates for their future!*

LEARN MORE





WALTER
Connecticut
College

Major: Environmental Studies

World Sailing Youth Champion
Junior Varsity Cross Country and Wrestling
Racing Coach
Volunteer to disabled peers
Church teaching assistant

When I reflect on my experiences as a student, what I remember vividly was being separated. My resource room, reading classes, speech lessons and testing rooms were down hallways tucked into small classrooms. I worked hard and pushed myself, determined not to stay behind. At times, the effort brought me the results I wanted, but often no matter how hard I tried, I didn't quite reach my goal.

In sports, however, I was not separate. I competed in a different kind of arena where my effort and determination have allowed me to excel.

The wind and water have shaped me from the time I was very young. I've been humbled by both and learned to respect and appreciate their power. I started sailing when I was eight, competitively when I was nine. I spent my early summers practicing knots and learning to sail in local waters. In time, wind and water brought me around the world. I traveled to compete in places that I had studied on maps and read about in history books.

Sailing has taken me places and taught me things I never could have imagined. Math and science were never my strong suit, but with sailing I've learned to appreciate their utility. On the water, my disability became an advantage. Growing up, I was forced to focus more, work harder, and pay attention in ways that others took for granted. I developed a kind of peripheral awareness that served me well, especially out on the open water. I've become something of an expert at meteorology, oceanography and geometry. I've mastered reading the clouds and ripples on the water to identify the biggest pockets of pressure. The compass bearings that I write on the deck of my boat tell me the angles I should be taking on the upwind and downwind. I've used concepts like center of effort and lateral resistance to build my speed. Through years of practice, making mistakes and correcting them, I've acquired skills I could not have learned in a book.

Last summer, those years of practice and perseverance brought me to the highest level of youth sailing when my skipper and I qualified to represent the United States at the Youth World Championship. We competed against the best youth sailors from around the world and won the Gold Medal in the 420 Class. I am also incredibly proud to be part of the first United States Youth Worlds Team to be awarded the Nations Trophy.

My learning disability may have held me back from easily succeeding in traditional academics, but everyone has something holding them back. For me, it is my dyslexia. This is part of who I am. I encourage younger people, including my brother, to accept their learning disabilities and develop their strengths. My strengths, my character, and my successes have all been shaped by the challenges I faced.

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Should Kids with Reading Disabilities Get More Help on State Tests? (YES)

WFYI News



Bipartisan Effort to Fully Fund the IDEA

Disability Scoop



Literacy Bill Could Hold Back 3rd Graders

Tuscaloosa News



Helping Dyslexic Students Prepare for the ACT

Smart Brief



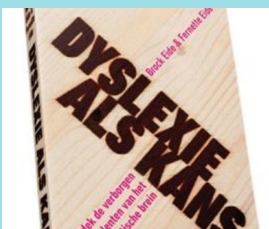
Oklahoma Passes a Bill to Improve Teachers Training for Dyslexia

OU Daily



Indiana Expands Resources for Children with Dyslexia

WTHI-TV 10



Dyslexic Advantage is Published in Dutch!

HOI Foundation



Austin's Dyslexia Community Embraces Return to Cursive Writing

KVUE ABC NEWS



Employer Settles Claim that HR Found No 'Point' in Training Work with Dyslexia

HR DIVE



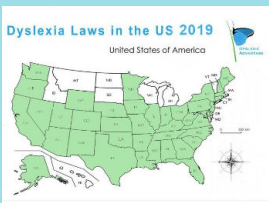
The Best I've Done is The Only Way I've Done (essay by 10 year old girl with dyslexia)

Mothership



Million Word Gap for Children Who Aren't Read to at Home

Science Daily



Dyslexia Laws in 2019 in the US

Dyslexic Advantage



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